

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, May 15, 2012
6:00 pm Kelly Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, David Parkhurst, Ted Mendoza, David Rollo, Claire Cumberland, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah (joined late), Caleb Steiner, Gary Charbonneau, George Huntington

Regrets: Cynthia Schultz, Ashley Skooglund, Bill Brown

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Announcements:

The "Ready, Set, Grow" gardening event will take place this Saturday at the Farmers Market.

Dave P. asked for expert input on getting started with beekeeping.

Dave R. suggested a future discussion lead by the commission about limits to growth and what kind of economic system is compatible with resource constraints. This may happen at a future meeting, followed potentially by a larger community discussion.

The Community Orchard is trying to recruit additional volunteers and promote more community involvement. Please share info!

Hoosier to Hoosier is in need of volunteers tomorrow (5/16) to help process donations.

Approval of Minutes:

The April minutes were approved.

Report from the Chair

Upcoming BCOS activities: tabled this discussion

Next interview with Ecoreport, other outreach: Claire will do the next "Speak Your Mind" segment for WFHB on water conservation.

Amanda agreed to do the next Ecoreport interview along with her kids. Jacqui will coordinate this with Amanda and WFHB.

Jacqui also submitted a guest column to the Herald Times on water and energy that should appear soon.

Board building/self assessment: In an attempt to improve the effectiveness of the commission and help fill commission needs with future appointments, members were asked to fill out an assessment of the role they hope to play on BCOS. The results will be compiled and shared at the next meeting.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Jacqui reported that donations for Hoosier to Hoosier this year are way up, largely in response to increased direct outreach to students, especially international students. An increased number of volunteers are needed to help process the additional materials.

Committee reports

STAR committee report: on hold until the new intern starts.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: No report this month. The next meeting is tomorrow.

New business:

Amanda reported on a field trip she took with her kids to the climate observation tower at Morgan-Monroe Forest, and suggested it might be a good target for a future field trip by the commission (perhaps in conjunction with the Environmental Commission).

Jacqui noted a need for volunteers to staff the new recycling stations at the Taste of Bloomington. Caleb, Amy, and Dave R. all indicated an interest in volunteering.

For the next quarter, we had talked about focusing on waste and recycling. Amanda has tentative approval from the principal to transition to reusable trays if they can find money for the trays and for new, paired recycling and trash containers. This might be a topic for Amanda's kids to talk about on Ecoreport too. She'll check in with them and get back to us. Amy will share the estimated budget.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.